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Neque commovetur animus. Ter. And.

Let not the mind from its firm basis shake.

Of all the attributes of strength of mind there are perhaps none more admirable than Independence of character - that stern unyielding dignity of spirit which leans upon itself alone - and scorns the assistance of the surrounding world - a spirit which forms its own notions, and draws its own results unbiassed by the weight of prejudice uninfluenced by the opinions of men - a spirit which can stoop to nothing

that is mean or unjust though tempted by the richest reward on the one hand and threatened with the most direful punishment on the other— placed on a lofty eminence far above the common wants and desires of men its whole train of thought feeling and action possess an air of dignity and consistency of dignity which is always an ornament to the character of consistency which is one of the most necessary rules in the government of our lives without consistency indeed all our motives however excellent all our actions however well judged would want that stamina which can alone render them proper and useful a rambling mind will continually lead us into one error or another. it will prevent in us the spirit of enterprize. and top us about

in one continued whirlpool of desire and passion without resolution enough to stick to any well regulated plan we should be continually varying our scheme for life, our course of conduct till a period of misspent years would bring — with itself ruin and disgrace an independent character let whatever be our station in life will always preserve a proper consistency in our conduct never before we have made trial of any new duty or avocation. it will not be difficult for us to perceive what line of conduct we shall pursue and then who are acquainted with our characters will discern the course we shall probably follow in it for they will judge pretty correctly from the past what we shall be likely to do in the future. if on former occasions we have acted with spirit vigor and

firmness it is but fair to conclude that we shall lose none of these characteristicks. this confidence which creates in others can never be otherwise than useful to ourselves. this alone without a consideration of the many immediate advantages might be sufficient to excite in us a spirit of Independence but this is a mere trifling consideration when compared with the great and powerful reasons which render it for our interest to cultivate and maintain it. for in our conduct decision calmness and all the necessary consequences of independence of character. consider the difference in the conduct of men as they possess or want this spirit. take for example a man engaged in the ordinary business of life he can only ~~[illegible] want this spirit~~ proceed

in the beaten track of his predecessors and even in following their course he will find at every turn some obstacle to impede and perplex him. his situation will be uneasy and dangerous every new incident will occasion perplexity and he will easily fall a prey to the machination and deceits of the World

Let us suppose another instance let such a man be high in an office requiring talent firmness and resolution how will he be able to discharge his public duties with fairness and ability can he avoid the rocks and schoals the storms and tempests of public life tempted by opportunities of emolument by the solicitations of his friends may he not be guilty of fraud of extortion or a thousand other crimes which are the bane of his character may he not yield himself up to the guidance of others and make their opin-

the rule of his conduct - may not his measures become at last injurious to his country. disgraceful and ruinous to. himself. . let the reader draw from the examples of the present from the History of the past his own conclusions upon this subject, we venture to believe that they will concur with our own that dependence is of the greatest weakness & independence of character one of the most powerful attributes of the human mind

Dependence of character is not a crime but it is a fault & a fault productive of serious evils if one has not judgment enough to form his plans of conduct nor sufficient resolution to execute them he is incapable of ever shining in active Life he will never feel himself safe unless guided by precedent

or prompted by advice and every new care or sudden emergency will prevent him from acting with method and precision he will not venture to form new combinations but will consider himself as tied down by invariable rules & the bold flights the inventions & the improvements of genius will seem to him little better than unjustifiable liberties with the fixed order of nature had civilization depended upon such men social life would never have been organized & the world would have been inhabited by hordes of Savages no towering cities would have met the eye - the earth would not have yielded her rich harvests her beauty concealed by everlasting woods could afford no such

rich and varied perspectives and the Ocean would have spread out its wonders unnoticed & of no avail to the habitues of man - but in Independence of character there is something useful & beautiful in all ranks and conditions of men to observe it in prosperity is to see virtue reaping a just reward to find it in adversity is to see that virtue bearing patiently the frowns of fortune and wrapping itself up yet closer in conscious rectitude as the storm beats more pitilessly and cares pour more copiously from without. It is not the fate of every Man who has talents and honesty to rise to high stations but he who has sufficient firmness to resist all temptations that would draw him from the paths of rectitude and to pursue those measures which his best

judgment pronounce to be right will at least ~~be~~ ad.
.miration in those who observe him. and afford his capacity to rank high amongst the illustrious he will be regard.
.ed as the oak which has withstood the tempests of ages or as an awful cliff. that has presented unchanged by the vicissitudes of the seasons for a thousand years.

Let those who have the education of youth in their charge early instil into the young mind the advanta.
.ges of independence of character no less carefully than they would cultivate their Religious and moral instruc.
.tion. say more anxiously than those rudiments which are esteemed a necessary part of education. If you give them habits of depen.
.dence. If you learn them to lean upon yourselves or

others for support you can never hope for their future firmness in life like a weakened branch they will always require a prop remove it and they will fall help. less to the ground teach them that in their progress through the World it is of the utmost importance to have mind of their own & to observe reason & decide for themselves to know how to act upon all occasions. without being unduly influenced by the opinions of others learn them to calculate solely on their own merits and powers for their future success in the World that accidental circumstances though they afford advantages in the commencement of a career are no standard of merit and that our own virtue & ability are alone the criterion of our cha.

racters. Let it not be for-
gotten and it ought to be of the
proud characteristicks of our
constitution that an infant cloth-
ed fed and educated as an
object of charity has an equal
opportunity of gaining the first
ports of moving in the first
circles of Society in our Coun-
try if his virtue & talents en-
title him to it as he who has
an hereditary claim to fortune
& honours. We cannot too soon be
imbued that we have a part to
act in the World that our Parents
& friends are not always to think for
us but that we have seperate duties
to perform which will depend solely
upon ourselves. seperate them as
soon as possible burning from your
other duties & learn at once to think
feel & act like Men.

In conclusion may we
not be allowed to suggest to the
fair that beauty has no richer
ornament that virtue never
appears more lovely than when
supported by independence of

character female weakness may excite our Interest but Independence of Spirit commands our admiration: affectation of any kind detracts from merit & when we observe it we are apt to carry our criticism further than such a ground will warrant but Woman is never more admired than when with conscious dignity she dares to act for herself and convinces Men that their services and attentions are no wise essential to her happiness

W.